

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 SY-05 CPR-01 /074 W  
-----039904 270435Z /23/63

R 261339Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6317

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 13572

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 13572 VICE 3572)

EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDIP, IN, US  
SUBJECT: PRESS COMMENT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO INDIA  
REF: NEW DELHI 13495

### 1. PRESIDENT CARTER'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO INDIA CONTINUED

TO RECEIVE EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE PRESS COVERAGE SEPTEMBER 25  
AND 26. EDITORIALY, THE "INDIAN EXPRESS" SEPTEMBER 26  
SAID, "A GREAT WELCOME TO THIS COUNTRY AWAITS PRESIDENT  
CARTER." IN A SOMEWHAT LESS ENTHUSIASTIC EDITORIAL  
REVIEWING INDO-US RELATIONS SINCE INDEPENDENCE, THE  
"NATIONAL HERALD" COMMENTED, "HE WILL RECEIVE A WARM  
WELCOME NOT ONLY BECAUSE HE IS HEAD OF A POWERFUL GOVERNMENT  
AND OF A LEADING POWER, BUT FOR HIS OWN PERSONAL QUALITIES  
AMONG WHICH THE COMMON TOUCH IS THE MOST UNCOMMON QUALITY."

2. PRESS ACCOUNTS AGAIN MENTIONED AS THE MOST  
PROBABLE AGENDA ITEMS NUCLEAR ISSUES AND INDO-US  
BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE "HINDUSTAN TIMES" WASHINGTON  
CORRESPONDENT N.C. MENON SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE TWO LEADERS ARE IN  
AGREEMENT ON THE GOAL OF RIDDING THE WORLD  
OF THE NUCLEAR SCOURGE, THE "US ATTEMPTS TO  
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TIGHTEN AND EXTEND NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS HAVE NOT ALWAYS  
BEEN ACCEPTABLE TO INDIA. A DISCUSSION AT THE SUMMIT,  
IT IS HOPED, WILL HELP PROVIDE A SOLUTION THAT HAS SO  
FAR ESCAPED THE EFFORTS OF LESSER OFFICIALS."  
THE PRESS SPECULATES THAT INCREASING CULTURAL AND  
SCIENTIFIC INTERACTION WOULD FIGURE IN THE AGENDA  
WHILE THE QUESTION OF US PRIVATE INVESTMENT WOULD NOT.

3. THE PRESS HIGHLIGHTED THE FACT THAT CARTER HAS CHOSEN INDIA AS ONE OF THE TWO ASIAN COUNTRIES HE WILL VISIT. WARREN UNNA, THE "STATESMAN" 'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, SAYS THIS BREAKS WITH PAST TRADITIONS OF IMPARTIAL US INTEREST TOWARD THE SUBCONTINENT BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT WILL NOT BE STOPPING IN PAKISTAN.

4. IN TWO ARTICLES, THE "HINDU" NOTED THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT CLEARS UP SPECULATION ABOUT THE POSTPONEMENT OF PM DESAI'S TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES. WRITING FROM WASHINGTON, EASWAR SAGAR SAID THAT ONE MISCONCEPTION ABOUT THE POSTPONEMENT HAD BEEN THE FEELING "IN SOME QUARTERS" THAT BY ACCOMMODATING ITSELF IT THE SOVIET'S REVISED DATES FOR DESAI'S VISIT TO MOSCOW, DELHI WAS ONCE AGAIN SHOWING PREFERENCE FOR ITS TIES TO THE SOVIET UNION. G.K. REDDY, THE DELHI CORRESPONDENT, SAYS THAT THE VISIT CAME AS A "PLEASANT SURPRISE" TO THE GOI AND IT CLEARS THE WAY FOR DESAI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON WHICH REDDY SAID MAY TAKE PLACE IN APRIL OR MAY NEXT.

5. SEVERAL REPORTS PICKED UP PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR BREZEEZINSKI'S STATEMENTS THAT INDIA'S RENEWED COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC IDEALS AND ITS POLICY OF GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT WERE CONSIDERATIONS IN CHOOSING INDIA AS ONE

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OF THE COUNTRIES CARTER WILL VISIT. THE EXPRESS IN ITS EDITORIAL, HOWEVER, NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT "SIGNALED HIS DEEP INTEREST IN INDIA AND IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS EVEN BEFORE ANYONE COULD FORESEE THE END OF THE INDIRA GANDHI DICTATORSHIP BY SENDING HIS MOTHER AND HIS SON TO REPRESENT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AT THE FUNERAL OF PRESIDENT FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED."GOHEEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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